

Attn: CT Legislative Environmental Committee:

I just heard on the local news that the Legislature's Environmental Committee is now considering a black bear hunting season and is holding a hearing this morning (3/6/18) to consider the proposal.

I strongly oppose this proposal, as a private citizen and resident of Windsor.

I hike, walk, and bike in areas of the state where there is always potential to spot bears, and always look forward to the opportunity to catch a glimpse of one.

This species has made a comeback due to re-forestation in CT but is not overpopulating our state, and there is zero rationale to hunt these magnificent animals.

Bears are slow re-producers, and can be returned to limited status very easily by hunters and harrassment.

This is a hunting lobby push, I am sure, as these proposals always are, and every rationale will be created just to appease that very tiny portion of our state residents.

I am 100% sure that a huge majority of our state residents oppose a bear season and want these wonderful creatures protected from harm.

The DEEP and state legislature should respect the sentiment of the majority, not the selfish demands of the "squeaky wheel" and very small hunting lobby.

Bears are bright and resourceful animals who can adapt to living with humans without interaction. They mean us no harm, and we should respect their right to exist in this state without undue threat from hunters.

Very truly yours,

Brooke Samuelson
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